

Virginia League Teams Prepared for Season's Opening

TICK TURNER IS LATEST RECRUIT TO JOIN COLTS

Pitcher From Canadian League Drifts Here Asking for Work.

GRIF WANTS GAME TUESDAY FOR MEN

Newark Game Canceled on Account of Rain—Prefers Collegians—Strain Will Start Game Against Goobers on Thursday, With Luskey as His Battery Mate.

BY GUS MALBERT.

This particular column of space was set aside for a story about how the Colts, stepping to the front for the last preseason game, landed with pleasing ferocity upon the invading Newark club, and, tearing into their defense, ripped off run after run, raced around the paths in true Ted Meredith style, fielding with a precision and dash which gave every evidence of bearing out the prediction coyly offered by Steve Griffin that he had some kind of a ball club.

We were bent upon telling admiring readers why, in the face of the victory thus achieved over adversaries whose assembled salary list made the pittance eeked out ever so oft to the Colts look like a Sunday morning offering in a church presided over by an unpopular sermonist, we say that, in view of this victory, we were prepared to impress upon all Petersburgers that a comfortable time for H. C. Busch to leave for more pleasing parts, was now, before his general reputation suffered on Thursday, and then—It rained.

Which, cruel as it may appear, compels us to fill this space anyway. Fortunately, a very important person arrived and officially registered his name in the blue book of Richmond baseball. This person is Mr. Tick Turner, who, at various and sundry times, has been known as a pitcher of baseball in many parts of the country. Last season, and the season before that, he was a member of the St. Thomas team in the Canadian League, and the season before that he was in the Eastern Carolina Association, which brings him closer to home. During these various peregrinations

Continued on Seventh Page.

BRODERICK SAYS TEAM IS READY

Predicts That Newport News Will Be in Race From First Game.

BY MATTHEW BRODERICK, Manager Newport News Baseball Club. While the team with which Newport News will open the championship season of the Virginia League at Roanoke on Thursday will be a strong one, any weak points that may develop under fire will be immediately strengthened, and before the season is a month old this city will have as good a ball club as there is in the league. This is said without any attempt at bragging. Viewed from every angle, the team as now constituted is a strong one. The outfield is the most promising department of the team, both in offensive and defensive work. Early has proven a fine fielder, knows the game from every angle and his war club will be the fear of every pitcher in the league before the season is many weeks old unless I miss my guess. Cregar, a left hand good fielder and a heavy hitter, and is a fixture in left. Steinbocker is a strong hitter, and "Dixie" Walker combines hitting ability with marvelous speed, a fine whip and a good head.

James Jobson is proving an aggressive player at first base, and will be a fine substitute on that job until Paul Jones Davis arrives from Stillwater on May 1. Jobson will be retained as a utility man, being able to play any infield or outfield position and to pitch. I will hold down the second base job, but prefer that some one else pass judgment on my ability. In Motter we have a splendid short fielder. He has plenty of ginger, is a rattling fast fielder and has a splendid whip. He also is proving a timely hitter. DeFarge has the call on the third base position right now, and is a strong defensive player.

With McDermott and Ackerman behind the bat, we bow to none in the catching department. Both are aggressive.

YOUNG ATHLETES ENTER FOR GAMES

Interscholastic Track and Field Events at Washington and Lee University.

ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 21

Prominent Men Have Been Selected as Officials—Handsome Prizes Are Offered

Lexington, Va., April 12.—Entries for the interscholastic track and field games which will be held at Washington and Lee University April 26 will close on the evening of April 21. It is very important that every school which will enter this contest will send in at its earliest convenience entrance blanks. After these have been received, a regular schedule and classification of teams as to events will be made.

The final details for running off the big track event have all been worked out, and the athletic officials have made ample arrangements for the most successful meet that has ever been held in this part of the South. Handsome prizes have been received, which will be awarded to the winners of the several events. A picture of these prizes has been taken and cuts mailed to all the schools. There will be in all about forty-two prizes awarded. These prizes consist of gold, silver and bronze medals struck from a special die. In addition to these are the silver loving cups, which will be awarded to the individual members of the relay team winning the race. A large silver plaque of a star design and workmanship, twenty-six by twenty inches, will be awarded to the school which wins the greatest total of points at the meet.

The sixty officials who will have the event in charge have been selected. All of the officials are persons who

(Continued on Third Page.)

BUSCH WORKING TO SHAPE UP TEAM

Goobar Manager in Poor Shape, but Thinks Band's Playing Will Help.

BY H. C. (HEINIE) BUSCH, Manager Petersburg Baseball Club. My team looks alright to me individually, and if I can get my infield and outfield working together, as they ought, my club will then be in the race. I am still experimenting some, and I hope to get them together right, so that it will make a great playing machine.

With Laughlin, Brennagan and Leibs, my catching department is fixed. By the way, Leibs, the Richmond boy, is going to make a nice catcher. Brookes, Morganroth, Vance and Hedgpeth, who looks lots better than he did last year, with Richmond and Ames, make up the pitching staff. Both Richmond and Holmes are youngsters, and both look good, especially Richmond, yet I won't be surprised if Richmond doesn't beat Richmond opening game, as I believe, barring accidents, my young pitcher Richmond will be on the pitchers' mound that important day. Along with these six men I have Hobbs, who will finish school, and Cooper, of the United States Navy, who is on his way now from Vera Cruz, Mexico. This boy has been recommended to me as the very best, and will be in shape when he reports as he has pitched and won a few games already in dear old Mexico. Spencer, Simmons and Blackstone will be the outfield, with Schwartz as utility man. This boy Schwartz can play any position in either the garden or infield, and is a pretty fair hitter. If these three outfielders can be drilled to play together as I want them, their hitting and base running should make the team a good one. Spencer is a new Spencer, full of ginger and is going to be the life of the team. There will be at least one .300 hitter on the club, and he won't miss .400 very far. That man is Spencer. He

(Continued on Third Page.)

PILOTS OF VIRGINIA LEAGUE TEAMS



Left to right, top row—W. R. Pressly, Roanoke; H. C. Busch, Petersburg; Steve Griffin, Richmond; Lee Garvin, Portsmouth; Charles Shaffer, Norfolk. Left to right, bottom row—W. B. Bradley, secretary Richmond club; Mathew Broderick, Newport News.

How Virginia League Teams Will Line Up on Opening Day

PETERSBURG VS. RICHMOND.	PORTSMOUTH VS. NORFOLK.	ROANOKE VS. NEWPORT NEWS.
Simmons, cf. Spy, 3b. Busch, ss. Spencer, cf. Krepps, 2b. Barnett, 1b. Blackstone, lf. Brennagan, c. Richmond, or. Hedgpeth, p.	Eberle, cf. Brennagan, 3b. Griffin, 2b. Haley, 1b. Piez, rf. Luskey, c. Newton, ss. Tennant, lf. Strain, p.	Keller, cf. Kircher, lf. Schneider, 1b. Matlin, lf. Blauvelt, rf. Dumrau, 3b. Irmacher, 2b. Shields, 2b. Laffite, c. Edfrd, or. Gordin, p.
Umpires—Colgate and Kennedy.	Umpire—Norcum.	Umpire—McTague.

COBB WILL VISIT LYNCHBURG SOON

Wires That He Expects to Be in Hill City About 18th.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Lynchburg, Va., April 12.—Unless prevented by something he does not expect now, Tyrus Raymond Cobb, the great hold-out star of the Detroit American League team, will come to Lynchburg during the latter part of the week to open negotiations with the Lynchburg team of the United States League, looking to a contract for the summer. Cobb's visit, it is understood, is depending upon whether or not he comes to an agreement with President Navin.

A private telegram from him late yesterday afternoon confirms the announcement by Manager Mackinnon of a long-distance telephone conversation held Thursday afternoon, the message being as follows:

"I expect to be in Lynchburg about

Where Virginia League Clubs Play Thursday

Richmond vs. Petersburg, at Richmond.
Portsmouth vs. Norfolk, at Portsmouth.
Roanoke vs. Newport News, at Roanoke.

Umpires.
Colgate and Kennedy, at Richmond.
McTague, at Roanoke.
Norcum, at Portsmouth.

(Continued on Third Page.)

NO HEARING FOR BASEBALL MEN

Ban Johnson Refuses Request Made by President Fultz, of Players' Organization.

Chicago, April 12.—Offending players will be suspended in the American League during the present season without the formality of a hearing, as has been the case heretofore, according to an announcement made last night by President Ban H. Johnson. The statement was made in reply to President Fultz, of the players' organization, who recently requested that punishment of men ejected by umpires be withheld until their side of the case could be heard. The players' contention is dismissed by the president as being "unworthy of serious consideration," because it would be too obstructive to main taining discipline on the playing field.

EXPECTS BETTER ARTICLE OF BALL

President of League Predicts Banner Season From Every Angle of Game.

BY J. O. BOATWRIGHT, President Virginia League. The eighth season of the Virginia League opens Thursday, the 17th instant, with games in Roanoke, Richmond and Portsmouth. In all sincerity I can say that from my observation and experience no season has ever opened with brighter prospects for a successful ball in the Virginia League. The four older members, namely, Richmond, Norfolk, Petersburg and Roanoke, have teams apparently well balanced and stronger on paper than has ever been the case, while the two newer members, Newport News and Portsmouth, have gamely fought against unforeseen accidents and will, to all appearances, begin the season with teams amply able to represent their respective cities and compete with the older ones. I have worried me somewhat from a financial standpoint that the league, from the accounts given out by the clubs and managers, will have to purchase six pennants for the 1913 season. I have selected from hundreds of applications for umpires, each of whom has been highly recommended to me by those who should know, and, with the promised support of club owners and managers, the umpiring should be of high calibre this season. I trust no. McTague will cry "play ball" at Roanoke, Colgate and Kennedy at Richmond, and Norcum at Portsmouth. It is conceded around the entire circuit by those in a position to know that the article of ball that the Virginia League will give its patrons during the season of 1913 will be of a high order and the kind the public wants and I know stand ready to support. Let me repeat to the press and public that when the facts are wanted they can be had at this office.

PRESSLY HASN'T PICKED TEAM YET

But Roanoke Doctor Feels Very Good Over Outlook for Fighting Club.

BY W. R. (BUCK) PRESSLY, Manager Roanoke Baseball Club. Just a few words as to my club for the coming season. I have been a little unfortunate in regard to my players reporting late, but with another week of good weather I think we will be ready for the Shipbuilders on April 17. Just now I am a little in the dark as to the exact line-up of the club. I think Laffite will catch the opening game unless something happens to keep him out of the line-up. Speaking of catchers I don't think there is a club in the league that can compare with our catching staff. Everybody knows Jim Laffite's value to a ball club. I think he is the best catcher that has ever been in the Virginia League, and he is in grand shape this year. Young Stewart, our second catcher, is the most promising youngster I have ever seen. He is a big fellow with a wonderful arm, and the way he can hit the ball is a sight. He will make a great man to help Jim along, and to pinch hit for the club. My catchers do not give me one moment's uneasiness, and if that was my only trouble I would sleep soundly. I am indeed proud of my pitching staff, and unless I am badly fooled, the club that beats any one of the four will have an awful battle. I realize they will lose games, but I have the confidence in the boys, and for mine, Edfrd, Gordin, Brown and Hinch look awfully good. Edfrd, Gordin or Brown will pitch the opening game with the odds favoring Gordin, as he seems to be in the best shape. All the fellows are anxious to get at Paul Davis's shipbuilders, and the one that shows the most when warming up will get the call. The infield for opening day is still a question, and just what combination will be worked out is indeed a problem to be solved at this office.

(Continued on Third Page.)

GARVIN REGARDS SALARY LIMIT

Portsmouth Manager Doesn't Overstep Bounds—Has Young and Hustling Ball Club.

BY LEE GARVIN, Manager Portsmouth Baseball Club. I have a young ball club and have lived up to the salary limit. When it sign a mountain of salary I can sign a mountain of salary. That's been my principal aim up to the present time—living within the salary limit—and a little too far, and nobody would believe me; but I do believe that when my club meets Norfolk on Thursday we will be able to hold our own, and that goes for every club in the Virginia League. One thing is certain, and I will guarantee that much: we will hustle all the time and do our level best to bring home every game played. Naturally we are going to lose some, but the few we expect to lose will simply be stepping stones to that permanent. Of course I want to cop it. There is nothing a young manager wants so badly as to make a great showing his first year out. Heinie Busch turned the trick for Petersburg, and I want to do the same thing for Portsmouth. I figure my team a well balanced club, with fair hitting, good base running, youth and just enough experienced men to hold the youngsters well in hand and show them the proper way to go. I have seven pitchers in tow, and they are all bright and ambitious young men, who are anxious to make reputations. Some of them are known to the fans in this circuit, and

(Continued on Third Page.)

CLUBS ALL READY FOR FIRST GAME THURSDAY NEXT

Richmond, Portsmouth, Roanoke Open Season in Virginia League.

UMPIRES RECEIVE THEIR MESSAGE

Five Arbiters Secured by President Boatwright—Managers From Six Cities Prophecy Banner Season From Playing and Financial Standpoint—Fight to Finish.

BY GUS MALBERT.

Prophetic orbs may now be cast over the assemblage of talent gathered in the Virginia League for the opening encounters scheduled for Thursday next, provided cyclonic disturbances, as has been too often the case, are not offered by the wielders of weather destinies. Delphic oracles may wrinkle brows hiding some upon tome of baseball lore and set down with wondrous precision and powerful arguments the chosen ones who will hit the trail a lap or two ahead of the race. They are all prepared, those six managers in the Old Dominion circuit; but none is so bold as to name the blue chips that will come his way. Let the oracle orate.

The baseball cauldron is already simmering, and when President Boatwright taps the gong which raises the barrier it will be boiling, with a seething, hissing noise that will be heard from end to end of this grand old State. Far off shouts of the big league devotees will be drowned in the babel of sound which will go forth from the three parks in which contests are to be staged next Thursday. Preparations for the opening in Richmond, Roanoke and Portsmouth have been made. Special programs have been arranged, and in each of the three cities fortunate enough to be one of the sponsors at the christening of the 1913 Virginia League season record crowds are predicted.

At least two of the cities in the circuit will be honored with an opening game for the first time in the history of the organization. Roanoke heretofore has not been regarded in serving out this choice assignment, nor has Portsmouth been favored. The change

(Continued on Third Page.)

SHAFFER BRAGS ABOUT PITCHERS

Chief Tar Pleased With Every body, but Particularly With Strong Young Hurlers.

BY CHARLES (POP) SHAFFER, Manager Norfolk Baseball Club. I have never been very strong at predicting things for any of my clubs; the people of Virginia come pretty near knowing that by this time. But—and it is because of this—things look so good in this neck of the woods, prospects are so particularly bright, that I am getting young again, and when your Cousin Pop feels real young and coltish there's something to it. No set of ball players anywhere in the world will start out with better support than mine will get from the home fans. They are for us strong down here—so strong that even in practice we play to large crowds. I have never witnessed such a complete change in the attitude of the people, and it is because of this support that I am sure we will be out in front over every inch of the baseball Marathon set to begin on Thursday. No set of youngsters can keep from playing baseball with the whole town behind them. All I am asking for in this battle of the gods is an even break of luck. Keep my club from injuries, and when we are licked I'll say to the winner: "You've got some ball club." So far my infield has suffered most in the workouts. Dumrau got a bad finger, I am giving my probable lineup, though there may be one change—at short I am getting Bill Raftery from Washington and Lee University. Al Orth thinks this boy is a wonder, and it is largely upon Alf's endorsement that I am bringing him here. He will certainly have a chance to show me what he can do. Kircher has just drifted in, at a trade, and now my outfield is complete, with Keller in right, Kircher in left and Clyde Miller's brother in center—a well-balanced outfield. Gus Schneider, with his striking ability, with Schradler will be my first baseman, and he is too well known to need further

(Continued on Third Page.)